

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIS "SNAKE"
MURRAY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great privilege to pay tribute to my friend and confidant, Willis "Snake" Murray, one of the most unsung leaders of our Miami-Dade County community and Florida. On Thursday, September 26, 2002, in Tampa, Florida, he will be conferred the prestigious 2002 C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award. This honor symbolizes the state's highest recognition for volunteer leadership exemplified by Mr. Murray in his role as advocate par excellence for older persons.

I commend this decision by the officers and members of the Florida Foundation on Active Aging, which established this award in June 1998 to honor C. Colburn Hardy of West Palm Beach. It memorializes Mr. Hardy's work as a former New Jersey State Legislator, community leader and author of numerous publications and financial books, including "Social Security: The Crisis in America's Social Security System." It also dignifies his spirit of consecration to the well-being of senior citizens throughout this nation via his crucial role in the Pepper Commission for Older Americans and the White House Conferences on Aging.

Mr. Willis Murray succinctly epitomizes the disarming personality of a gentleman and the resilience of a trailblazer. One of the distinguished members of Booker T. Washington's Class of 1943 in Miami, he went on to obtain his bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida A&M University, and attended postgraduate studies at Barry University and University of Miami.

He has always had the knack of being at the forefront of the struggles of African-Americans and other minority groups in their quest for simple justice and fairness. Nowhere has this struggle been aptly defined than in his unequivocal stance of equality of opportunity for everyone in our community, be it in the arena of academic excellence for all children or in the ongoing struggle for economic and political empowerment for disenfranchised Americans.

Willis Murray is the consummate activist who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should be helped by the government, regardless of their race, creed, age or gender. While many have been inspired by his brand of unabashed sincerity, countless others have been motivated to follow his example for his unrelenting penchant for taking up any cause that would buttress the dignity of his fellow human beings, particularly our elder citizens.

Countless admirers and friends will honor Mr. Murray at a gathering of people from all political and philosophical persuasions throughout Florida. This celebration comes at a time when our state and this nation sorely need the exemplary services of senior advocates who, despite their busy schedules during their retirement, still find time to reach out to the less fortunate and create opportunities and programs that enhance the lives of our senior citizens.

This honoree may be just an ordinary guy trying to face his responsibilities each day to his own immediate family, and yet he has

been extraordinary in giving of himself to his fellow human beings. If there was ever a more dynamic personality who genuinely exalts the good name and stellar reputation of good, public servants, then this honoree would admirably fit that billing.

Mr. Willis Murray is a veritable dynamo as a community activist. A leader imbued with a genuine ecumenical spirit, he is also an indefatigable organizer for causes that may well indict the status quo on one hand, but yet inspire the confidence of our disenfranchised senior citizenry on the other. His manifold charitable actions toward others genuinely matches the depth of his Judeo-Christian faith. Time and time again he has willingly volunteered his expertise and resources to many organizations that often look up to his unique brand of no-nonsense leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this deserving honoree proudly symbolizes the remarkable, unusual strength of my community and my state of Florida. Urged on by his genuine Faith in Almighty God, he so chose to abide by the injunction of his stewardship that Faith without good works is dead..." And he so chose to give credence to the fact that God is indeed alive and well and present among us through his works of volunteerism and good will.

Mr. Speaker, Willis Murray is a unique manifestation of compassion whose courageous vision and pragmatic approach to leadership evokes our hope and optimism inherent in the idealism of the American spirit. It is my humble prayer that, as my years of service in this august body draw to a close, I would become less unworthy of the trust and confidence he has so generously entrusted to me for so many years.

IN HONOR OF FRANKIE M. MENO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I share with you an open letter written to the American public by my constituent, Frankie Michael Meno. This letter was composed to recognize the losses of September 11, 2001, on the one-year anniversary of the terror attacks against America. Mr. Meno's letter was accompanied by a CD containing a song, "America", which he wrote, and performed in the company of his step-children, nieces, and nephews: Jessica, Sarah, and Mason Inder, and Shay, Daverin, and Davin Diaz.

Mr. Meno, a resident of Inarajan, Guam, began writing songs in 2000. He finds the process simple as the melody and words coming to him almost automatically. His song "America" was inspired by the pride he felt watching the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, where people of all nationalities, languages, and colors came together as one. Mr. Meno hopes "America's message of peace and freedom can be extended to all corners of the world".

In speaking of Mr. Meno, I wish to convey to you his pride in America and his 16 years service with the U.S. Marines, his love of his family and children Christelle, Joseph, Antonia, and Jessica, and his grandchildren Isaiah and Jaythan, and his desire to use his song making abilities to help the victims of the ter-

rorist attacks and to assist rebuilding Guam's educational system. Mr. Meno's song is one patriotic American's expression of our nation's feelings of loss, recognition of our citizens' heroism, and the ultimate hope that America's freedom can be shared with the world. These sentiments are held by all of us, and I am glad to be able to share this letter with you today.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

DEAR FELLOW AMERICANS, on this day, we join you in remembering your loved ones who left us on September 11, 2001. We would like to join with you in recognizing and remembering the brave men and women of the New York Fire Department, the New York Police Department, and the other heroes who sacrificed their lives to save another's. It is these extraordinary deeds from ordinary people that make us all proud to call ourselves Americans; your voices and deeds will never be forgotten.

My family and the people of Guam salute and embrace the American people and the noble ideas they stand for. I dedicate this song to the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters, and the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to bring freedom and democracy to the island of Guam during World War II. I would also like to dedicate it to the American servicemen and to the people all over the world who long for freedom and democracy. I dream of the day when all the children of the world will be able to enjoy liberty's blessings. God bless Guam, God bless America, and God bless the world.

Semper Fidelis,

FRANKIE MICHAEL MENO.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND PATTI
SALTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the dedication of the City of Royal Oak's community center in the name of Jack and Patti Salter. This is a most fitting tribute to a couple so vital to the fabric of the Royal Oak community.

The new community stands on the site, and will continue to house, the Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland County. To many of us, the name of this Club and Jack Salter are synonymous as he was the executive director of this organization for over thirty years from August 1958 until February 1991.

During Jack Salter's tenure as executive director, the Club received 21 National Honor Awards for Program Excellence and 13 honorable mentions from Boys & Girls Clubs of America. That is more than any single Boys & Girls Club in the country. In addition, seven Club members were selected as Michigan Youth of the Year, and four Club members were Midwest Youth of the Year and traveled to our nation's Capitol to meet the President.

Jack and Patti Salter are examples of what makes the Royal Oak community so strong. They share a tireless commitment to our youth, a passion for grassroots activism and a warmth of character that draws people to them and their causes. I have been privileged to call them friends.

The mission statement for the Boys & Girls Club is: To inspire and enable all young people to help them realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Jack and Patti have surely inspired and they have made a difference in the lives of so many of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack and Patti Salter for all they have done to benefit the youth in South Oakland County, and to congratulate them on this day as the new community center in Royal Oak, Michigan is dedicated as the Jack and Patti Salter Community Center.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, one of the profound issues in world affairs today relates to the widespread perception abroad that the United States has become so disproportionately powerful that we need no longer be constrained in our actions by international rules, treaties, and even traditional security partnerships. This perception has helped fuel mistrust of American motives and resentment of American power, potentially hobbling the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy at a critical juncture in world politics.

In many respects, controversy surrounding the new International Criminal Court is an apt symbol for this debate. The International Criminal Court, which came into being on July 1, will be the first global permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute the most heinous individual violators of human rights—genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The United Nations, many human rights organizations, and many U.S. allies have expressed support for the new court. The Administration, however, strongly opposes it and has renounced any U.S. obligations under the treaty.

Although the U.S. has several valid concerns about the ICC—chiefly that the ICC might become politicized and capriciously assert jurisdiction over U.S. soldiers or high officials charged with “war crimes”—our belligerent opposition to the Court also carries obvious downside risks to American leadership.

America’s well-deserved reputation as a champion for human rights and extension of the rule of law has been called into question. Our efforts to play hardball in the UN Security Council by threatening to withhold support for UN peacekeeping missions unless the U.S. is granted immunity from the ICC alienated friends and allies abroad. The withholding of military assistance to members of the ICC may be seen as an attempt to undermine the court and influence the decisions of other countries to join the ICC. By demanding special treatment in the form of immunity from the ICC, the US may be seen as bolstering the perception of its preference for a unilateral approach to world affairs and a determination to operate in the world exclusively on our own terms. As a result, U.S. efforts to build coalitions in support for the war against terrorism as well as the enforcement of UN resolutions against Iraq may have been impaired.

Mr. Speaker, as an early advocate for the establishment of a permanent international

criminal court based on balanced recognition of international statutes, I confess to being chagrined both at the inability of the international community to accommodate legitimate American concerns, and the all-or-nothing approach of our government that has left us without effective means to ensure that the ICC operates in ways that are consistent both with credible rule of law principles and with sensitivity to U.S. interests designed to advance democratic governance.

The problem is that as a great power called upon to intervene in areas of the world or disputes such as the Balkans, Afghanistan and troubled areas of the Middle East, the U.S. is vulnerable to charges being leveled against actions which we might reasonably consider to be peacekeeping, but another power or government might charge to be something very different. For instance, what would happen if Serbia were to bring a case against an American naval pilot when such a pilot is operating under both a U.S. and NATO mandate? The President has suggested we should, exclusive of all other countries, be allowed a veto over applicability of international law with regard to the ICC. Many other countries, including strong U.S. allies, have angst about this demand because they see this approach as establishing the principle of one country being entitled to operate above the law.

This is not an unresolvable dilemma. When the ICC treaty was under negotiation, it was the assumption of many that the Security Council where all the permanent members have a veto would play a determinative role in bringing matters before the ICC. If such was the case, the U.S. could fully protect itself as could the other permanent members. Unfortunately, because the past administration played a confused, ambivalent role in development of the treaty, it failed to get this common sense approach adopted and put the new administration in the embarrassing position of objecting to an important treaty because of the failed diplomacy of its predecessors.

Based on discussions with representatives of several governments sympathetic to the U.S. dilemma it is my understanding that there may be an inclination to seek a reasonable compromise on treaty language, even at this late date. It would appear to be an umbrage to many countries to craft a provision excluding the U.S. alone from ICC jurisdiction, but it would seem not unreasonable on a process basis to return to a Security Council role. On this basis the U.S. and the international community should be credibly protected.

The court would function as a treaty organization founded on state consent, while respecting Security Council authority to refer any matters affecting international peace and security to the court’s jurisdiction. This approach has the advantage that it does not make a pure exception for the United States. Understandable concerns about inequitable protection of the nationals of permanent members of the Council would need to be balanced against the enhanced durability and legitimacy of the institution.

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that laws, to be effective, must constrain governments in their foreign policies as well as individuals in domestic acts, and that in order to hold governments accountable there must be individual accountability at the highest as well as lowest levels of society. Justice must be brought to the international frontier or life for too many

will, in Hobbes’ piercing phrase, continue to be “nasty, brutish, and short.” Creation of an ICC is a step in the direction of evolving international society but it only makes sense if the United States is able to join without concern for the legitimate exercise of its global responsibilities.

The United States should thus seek revision or a protocol to the treaty ensconcing a Security Council role. Such an approach would achieve American objectives without calling for exclusive consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF TAIWAN IN THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most challenging issues facing the United Nations General Assembly this fall is representation of Taiwan in the United Nations. U.N. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) of October 25, 1971, which seated the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations, did not properly address the Taiwan issue. Recently, China has indicated its willingness to allow Taiwan to join the United Nations but only if Taiwan acknowledges the “one-China” policy.

Since the U.N. Resolution in 1971, Taiwan has not had the opportunity to join the most powerful and influential group of nations in the world, the United Nations, and this has caused harm for the people of Taiwan. They have been denied the right to be a part of U.N. work and activities. For example, while Taiwan is willing and able to contribute its resources to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, Taiwan has been denied the chance to participate in U.N. sponsored HIV/AIDS conferences and other similar health organization gatherings. Taiwan has also been denied access to major international conferences such as the development conference held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and the U.N. General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002. In truth, Taiwan’s exclusion from the U.N. raises serious concerns about the rights of the Taiwanese people under the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international human rights provisions.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to speak out in support of Taiwan. Taiwan is a sovereign state and conducts full diplomatic relations with 27 member states of the United Nations. Moreover, Taiwan has membership in a number of major international organizations, including the World Trade Organization. Taiwan should be recognized for what it is—a nation that shares democratic values with the United States and a nation that deserves active participation in the United Nations.

HAPPY CENTENNIAL, BOROUGH OF BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, in 1802 a small lot of 200 acres was established as a borough in